The Centre to be based on the models of Microsoft Research and Development Centres in Japan and Ireland will employ Indian computer engineers who will have been trained initially at Microsoft's Headquarters, USA.

The company have informed the Department of Electronics that they have interviewed over 300 computer engineers in India during January, 1988 and have selected 44 individuals to whom they have offered software design engineering positions in the company. They have further informed that these engineers will assume temporary software development positions between 3 and 5 years in USA and after that they will be back in India to be placed in the proposed Software Development Centre.

Department of Electronics has since taken up with the company, the question of Microsoft setting up Software development centre for export in India as early as possible.

Production of nuclear plants

1225. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:
SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total installed capacity of nuclear power established and operative as on the 1st June, 1987;

(b) the quantum of power actually generated;

(c) the average cost of Kelowat of power so generated;

(d) the total quantum of additional nuclear power capacity proposes to establish thereafter;

(e) whether Government are aware of the apprehension which held very wildly by a large number of people that nuclear power stations are potentially very dangerous and despite all precautions involves series health hazards, particularly to children; and

(f) if so, what steps are being taken to allay this apprehension?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) The total installed nuclear power capacity as on *1st June, 1987 is 1230 MWe.*

(b) The cumulative gross generation of power from various operating nuclear power units since commercial operation till 30th June, 1987 is 49981 Million Kwh.

(c) The Electricity generation cost in nuclear power stations ranges from 37 paise/Kwh to 45 paise/Kwh.

(d) It is proposed to instal additional 8770 MWe electrical capacity of nuclear power to bring the total installed capacity to 10,000 MWe by the turn of the century.

(e) and (f) Government are aware about the apprehensions regarding safety of nuclear power stations among some sections of the public. Very stringent safety standards are adopted in siting, construction, design and operation of the nuclear facilities. A public awareness programme has been launched to remove misconceptions and fear about nuclear power plants.

Lost of heavy water imported from Norway

1226. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Norwegian Shipment of heavy water for making nuclear energy imported by

India has been lost on its way to India;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that earlier shipment of the same nature was also lost; and

(d) whether Government ultimately received the Heavy Water and when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, *ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS* AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) India has not imported any heavy water at any time from Norway. Hence the question of its getting lost on its way to India does not arise.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

1227. [*Transferred to the 16th August* 1988].

Appointment of Air Chief Marshal

1228. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new incumbent appointed as Air Chief Marshal is junior to Air Marshal M. M. Singh, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that Shri M. M. Singh has resigned or sought premature retirement and if so, what are the reasons advanced by him;

(c) what are the guidelines/criteria for superseding Air Marshals in IAF and whether these have been followed in the appointment of the present Air Chief Marshal; and

(d) what is the number of earlier cases when senior army officers have been superseded and its impact on the army service?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Yes, Sir. Air Marshal S. K. Mehra is junior to Air Marshal M. M. Singh. The appointment of Chief of the Air Staff is based on comparative merit and not on seniority only.

(b) Air Marshal M. M. Singh sought premature retirement with effect from 31st July, 1988, without assigning any reasons.

(c) There are no recorded guidelines or criteria for superseding Air Marshals in the Indian Air Force. The question of following such guidelines criteria, therefore, in the case of the appointment of the present Air Chief Marshal does not arise.

(d) The number of senior Army Officers, at the level of Lt. Generals, who have been superseded for appointment as Army Commanders/ Vice Chief of the Army Staff in the last five years has been eight. Supersession of officers in the higher echelons of the Army is inevitable because of its pyramidical structure, and inherent in the selection process which is based on comparative merit. There is no question, therefore, of any adverse impact being felt on the Army.

Chief executives in public sector

1229. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
DR. YALAMANCHILI SIVAJI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of public sector industrial units which are functioning without Chief Executives to steer their affairs and since when these units are without Chief Executives in each case;